Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79-01153A000100050031-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

19 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Basic Intelligence

FROM: Acting Chief, Map Library Division

SUBJECT: Release of CIA Maps to Non-government Requesters

25X1C4a

25X1C4a1. The Map Library has maintained a strict policy concerning the release of maps to non-government requesters, [redacted]. The policy has been fairly rigid, exceptions being made only in cases where the release of material was considered to be an advantage to the Agency and the Government. The policy has been very effective in the case of inquiries made to the Map Library through Agency channels. In the last year, only two written requests were received from the non-government organizations and both were given negative replies through OCR/LY.

25X1A5a1 [redacted]

25X1A5a1 [redacted]

[redacted] 25X1C4a

3. In reviewing the release of Agency maps to universities and the public, it should be pointed out that the Map Library has no control over maps after they are sent to the original requester. It is felt that many Agency maps reach the public indirectly through other government offices, i.e. through employees taking courses at local universities [redacted] The number of items reaching the public in this manner is impossible to determine. In view of the fact that most Agency maps are completely Unclassified and uncontrolled and with no attribution to CIA it would be impossible to control this traffic.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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4. A freer release policy for Agency maps is viewed with mixed feelings by the Map Library. It would mean an increased work load on the staff, and could easily get out of hand unless release was made on a highly selective basis. On the other hand, the Agency would be providing a valuable public service by allowing maps to be more generally available, especially to the academic world. Presently Agency maps are available to the public only through the Library of Congress, and then on a highly selective and round-about basis. It is felt, however, that the maps selected by CD/BI for release to the Library of Congress represent virtually all Agency maps that could reasonably be made available to the public. The monthly distribution list for the Library of Congress could very well be adapted as a general distribution list, should a freer dissemination policy be adopted.

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[redacted]

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